

A Christmas Carol, Revisited...

"Daddy, I am very cold," said the little boy, sitting on his father's shoulders.

"So am I, Tiny Tim" said Cratchit as he lightly stomped the ground and rubbed his fingers together in an effort to warm himself. "We only have one more stop and our Christmas caroling will be over."

Slowly the group of carolers approached a large, dark-looking house and began to sing in a slightly less than cheery voice. Within a few minutes an old man carrying a candle appeared at the window and yelled out, "Bah! Humbug! Why must you disturb a person with your mournful voices. Begone from these premises before I call the police and have you arrested for trespassing."

And with that greeting, Scrooge slammed the window and disappeared. Quickly and quietly the singers dispersed — all, that is, except Mr. Cratchit and Tiny Tim.

Very softly Tiny Tim said how cold he was and asked his father if perhaps Mr. Scrooge might not permit them a moment of warmth before they headed home.

Mr. Cratchit hesitated about asking his grumpy employer for any favors, since Scrooge's normally sour disposition turned especially bitter at Christmas. Nevertheless, Cratchit decided he must, since Tiny Tim's voice seemed especially weak.

When Scrooge responded to Cratchit's

knock, he was still in a foul temper, but in an unusual moment of weakness agreed to let them warm themselves by his fireside.

As they entered Scrooge's warm, cozy library, Tiny Tim's eye caught sight of Scrooge's fabulous stamp collection lining an array of book shelves. Open upon a desk was one of Scrooge's many albums. As Tiny Tim slowly limped towards the desk, Scrooge bellowed from across the room, "Be careful young man. Those are very rare and valuable stamps and I don't want you damaging them."

As Tiny Tim stood there looking at the album page, a tiny tear formed in his eye because before him was spread a collection of his favorite stamp. It was a stamp he had often longed for, but never had enough money to afford.

"Wipe those silly tears from your eyes, Tiny Tim," growled Scrooge as he approached the table. "You may get my stamps wet."

No sooner had these words left his lips than Scrooge heard some chains being



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dragged across his floor and his name called in a high-pitched, eerie voice. Quickly turning around, Scrooge saw standing before him his long-dead partner Marlow.

"Scrooge," squeaked Marlow, "remember the visits of the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future. Heed their message, for your time may have now arrived."

Blinking his eyes, Scrooge refocused on Tiny Tim and his album on the table. As quickly as he could, he grabbed Tiny Tim in his arms, lifted him high in the air and yelled, "Merry Christmas."

With a huge grin on his face, he gently placed Tiny Tim on the floor, while instructing the dumbfounded Cratchit to fetch all the carolers back to his house for a real songfest.

Turning once more to Tiny Tim, he said, "The stamp album is yours. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have."

Very fondly Tiny Tim gazed down on his favorite stamp. The jolly face of the older man in a red suit pictured on the stamp seemed at that instance to look at him, wink and cry out for all to hear, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a Good Year."

Judd Book Remains Bible On Pattern Pieces

The U.S. Mint was authorized by the Act of April 2, 1792, but President Washington made first public mention of coinage having actually been struck when he delivered his fourth annual address, Nov. 6, 1792. He declared then, "There has been a small beginning in the coining of half Dimes; the want of small coins in circulation, calling the first attention to them."

The story has been documented that Washington put up the silver in bullion and specie for the striking of \$100 in half dimes. The mint, however, was not fully ready for operation. The coining machinery was in the cellar of a Mr. Harper, a saw maker at Cherry and 6th streets, and there the pieces were struck.

On Dec. 17 the first coiner of the mint, Henry Voight, struck a few pieces of copper worth one fourth of a cent plugged in the center with $\frac{1}{4}$ cent worth of silver.

As the first U.S. coins struck outside the mint, the two Voight patterns are worth a fortune. In 1974 one was sold at a private sale for \$100,000.

The story of these interesting "United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces" was first compiled by J. Hewitt Judd and published by Western Publishing Co. in 1959. Judd, with the collaboration of researcher Walter H. Breen, put together a fascinating study which is now the Bible for the Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors.

Subsequent printings in 1965, 1970, 1974 and 1977 have updated the book, now in its sixth edition.

If you have the sixth edition, you will want the just-released price supplement showing hundreds of updates from prices at auction sales since 1977.

The Judd Pattern Book Price Supplement is available for \$2 from Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, 6922 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, 90028. Copies of the Judd book ordered at \$17.95 will include a copy of the price supplement.

Many patterns were more beautiful than the coins eventually selected for distribution. The \$4 gold "Stella" is a popular rarity, as are the "Washlady Dollar" the "Amazonian Dollar" and many others.

January is FUN time. The Florida United Numismatists will stage their 25th Anniversary convention Jan. 9-11 in the Gold Coast Room of the Sheraton Twin Towers in Orlando, Fla. New England Rare Coin Auctions of Boston will conduct three auction sessions and you

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may order the auction catalog for \$5 by addressing the firm at P.O. Box 1776, Boston 02105. You will receive a list of prices realized after the sale.

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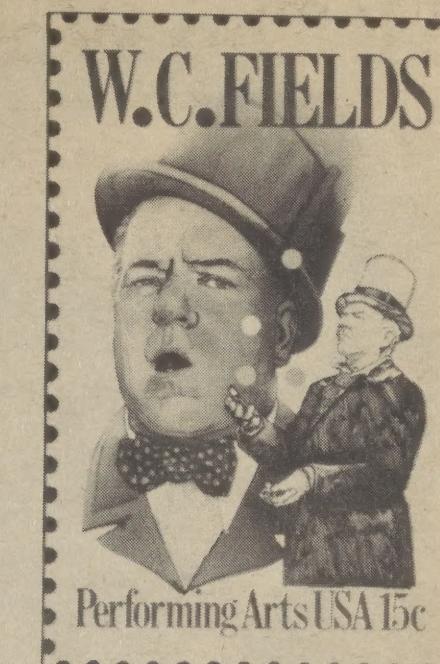
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The 15-cent W.C. Fields stamp issued Tuesday will be followed by four 15-cent Winter Olympics stamps Friday.

USPS Sends Out Five Stamps This Week

The U.S. Postal Service kicks off its 1980 stamp program this week with the issuance of a 15-cent stamp commemorating comedian W.C. Fields and four 15-cent Winter Olympics stamps.

The Fields stamp, to be issued Tuesday, is the fourth in the Performing Arts and Artist Series, begun in 1978. Fields, whose real name was William Claude Dukenfield, was born in Philadelphia in 1880. His show business career began at the tender age of 14, when he made his vaudeville debut. Eventually he gravitated to the movies where he received his most fame.

In the movies, Fields enjoyed playing the role of a man at war

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with the world, a man constantly battling objects and people, but always from a humorous point of view.

Many of his films are now considered classics. Some of the more popular are "You Can't Cheat an Honest Man," "Poppy" and "David Copperfield."

The Fields stamp, designed by Jim Sharpe who also designed the three previous stamps in the series, depicts the comic at two different stages in his career. In portrait form, Fields is shown as a juggler, hinting at his start in vaudeville. The second pose shows him as a comedian with top hat and bulbous red nose.

The four 15-cent Olympic stamps, to be released Friday, depict four major competitions at the Feb. 13-24 Games at Lake Placid, N.Y.: speed skating, slalom skiing, ski jumping and hockey.

Instructions for ordering first day covers of the new stamps:

For customer-affixed stamps, purchase the issues, affix them to a self-addressed, stamped envelope, enclose in another envelope and mail to:

W.C. Fields Stamp — First Day Cancellations, Postmaster, Beverly Hills, CA 90213.

Olympic Stamps — First Day Cancellations, Postmaster, Lake Placid, NY 12215.

For postal service-affixed stamps, send a self-addressed envelope, 15 cents per stamp to be affixed (payment by personal check or money order only) and mail to: W.C. Fields Stamp, Postmaster, Beverly Hills, CA 90213, or

Olympic Stamps, Postmaster, Lake Placid, N.Y. 12215.

Orders must be postmarked by Feb. 14.

STAMP CLUB MEETINGS

Monday, Jan. 28 — Middle Forge Philatelic Society, Picatinny Arsenal Auditorium, Picatinny Arsenal, 8 p.m.

Do Your Arithmetic Before You Sell

How much are your silver coins worth?

The newspaper advertisement says the Peachy Dandy Coin Co. of Oshkosh, Wis., will be at the local motel for three days and will pay \$6.50 for your half dollar dated 1964 and before, and \$3.25 for your dollar.

A gas station in Billings, Mont., is offering a gallon of gas for a 10-cent silver coin, 10 gallons for only \$1. Or how about a nice new BMW with a sticker price of \$26,870? You can drive it away for \$2,281.50 in silver coins.

The question, of course, is are these bargains?

To figure what a silver coin is worth on any given day, simply multiply the pure silver content of the coin by the price quoted for silver that day.

Suppose silver is quoted at \$30 per ounce .999 fine today. A half dollar contains .36169 Troy ounces .999 fine silver. Multiply that by 30 and you get \$10.85. Do you want to sell it for \$6.50?

A silver quarter contains .18084 ounces silver, which means it's worth \$5.42 in pure silver, so why sell it for \$3.25?

A gallon of gas for a dime? Never! That's .07234 ounces silver, or \$2.17 per gallon.

How about the foreign car for \$2,281.50 in silver coin? Dealers in this area were paying \$20 per \$1 face for silver coins in recent weeks, which makes the price of the auto just \$45,630, or \$18,810 more than the sticker price.

Now don't go down to the coin store and try to get \$10.85 for your silver half dollar when silver is quoted at \$30 per troy

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ounce. His overhead expenses are high, and he must sell what he buys to a middle man who delivers it to the smelter. They all have to make money to live.

It takes a lot of energy to separate the silver from the copper, and energy is not cheap. The point is know what you have in your hand before you sell it.

Keep the figures below and buy a pocket calculator with the money you save on your next transaction:

Silver Dollar, U.S. 1935 and

previous .77344 ounces; silver half dollar 1964 and previous, .36169; silver quarter 1964 and previous, .18084; silver dime 1964 and before, .07234; 40-percent silver Kennedy half dollar 1965-70, .14792; silver nickel 1942-45, .05626.

Multiply by the current silver price, then decide how and where you want to sell it.

There are no coin books or periodicals that reflect the value of common silver coins today. Silver doubled in value in the past few months and reached an all-time high of \$48 per ounce Jan. 15, leaving the price lists far behind.

A coin catalog will only tell you which coins are worth more than their silver value, like a 1938D Walking Liberty half dollar. Run your finger down the column G-4 in the 1980 Red Book and note which coins are worth more than the current silver price. These are the ones you KEEP.

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For details on the General Services Administration sale of silver dollars, send a post card (no letters) to Carson/City Dollars, San Francisco CA 94170. You will receive the information by Feb. 8.

Jockey Hollow Puts Its Stamp On Christmas

The Jockey Hollow Stamp Club has just the thing for collectors who want a souvenir of Christmas '79.

The club's annual cachet cover this year features the current U.S. secular Christmas stamp on a cachet with a Thomas Nast Santa Claus drawing. Nast's Santa depicts the jolly old gift giver telephoning the children of the world from his toy shop.

Nast, a Morristown resident from 1872-1902, is credited with providing today's popular image of Santa Claus.

The covers cost 75 cents each or four for \$1. Send your order, with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, to Jockey Hollow Stamp Club, P.O. Box 2411R, Morristown 07960.



Record Sale Rung Up At 1st Garrett Auction

What is the highest price ever paid for a coin at an auction sale?

The winner is the Brasher Dubloon sold at the St. Moritz Hotel in New York for \$725,000 during the recent Garrett Collection sale by Bowers and Ruddy Galleries of Los Angeles.

The sale was the first of four in a two-year period, which will dispose of the balance of the fabulous collection, owned by Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore.

The two-day sale, Nov. 28-29,

Another Brasher Dubloon will be offered in the future Garrett Sale. If you're interested, you'd better start saving up those dollars.

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The November issue of Gold Newsletter analyzed 23 issues of the \$20 gold St. Gaudens coin, from 1907 to 1923D.

The popular U.S. coin is not often seen in top condition, as most have been bounced around in bags over the years. And, of course, each little nick and scratch acquired along the way detracts from the beauty and subtracts from the price.

However, if you can locate an MS65 Uncirculated (Choice), the least you could expect to pay is \$1,000 for the 1908 with no motto. The 1912, with a mintage of 149,824, brings \$2,100.

Somewhere in between may be the one for you. In any event, it's fun to think about it.

All matters pertaining to gold sales, legislation, news and views are updated by the nation's top experts each month in the 16-page newsletter published by the National Committee For Monetary Reform, 8422 Oak St., New Orleans, La. 70118.

Subscriptions can be obtained for \$25 a year.

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brought \$7,067,000 for the 622 lots offered, an average of \$11,000 per lot.

Buyer of the prize Brasher coin, the best specimen known, was Martin Monas, a New York attorney who purchased it for an anonymous client.

Among the bidders was Walter Perschke who had purchased a Brasher dubloon for \$430,000 at "Auction '79" in St. Louis last July. He bid \$625,000.

On hand to witness the sale was Milton Brasher, great-great-grandson of the Colonial goldsmith, Ephraim Brasher, who fashioned the 1787 gold coins. Milton had his daughter with him, the great-great-great granddaughter of the now-famous artist whose shop was a few doors from George Washington's home on Cherry St., New York.



Poland has issued more than 40 silver coins commemorating the "Great People of Poland" and a series on "Natural Environment Protection." There are five gold coins, too, including one for composer Frederic Chopin.

For a free brochure describing these and other coins, write to Peikao Trading Corp., 225 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10003.

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Numismatic Happenings

Hobbyists Won't Be Shortchanged In '80s

The new decade promises to be a busy one in the world of coins.

Looking ahead, it appears the U.S. Treasury Department, through its Bureau of the Mint, will be the world's largest coin dealer in the '80s.

Contracts have been signed with precious metal fabricators to produce one-ounce and one-half-ounce blanks (planchets) so that the mint can strike gold medallions honoring some great Americans in the arts. The pieces will sell for the cost of the gold at the time, plus a small percentage for construction and delivery. The program should shape up in the spring.

Hobbyists and collectors will be offered the 1980 Proof Sets in April and the Uncirculated sets in the fall. The Susan B. Anthony S Mint dollar was not included in the 1979 Uncirculated sets. Officials said they didn't have enough lead time to design a package to include the San Francisco piece in the set, which had the Philadelphia and Denver specimens. Since the SBA dollar does not circulate, there is no need to strike any more at the California installation.

so that should be no problem next year. In fact, there is no need to strike more of the mini-dollars at ANY mint.

February will bring the first of the Carson City dollar sales by the General Services Administra-



tion (GSA), the nation's surplus store.

What else can we look forward to? Gold will reach the \$500-an-ounce mark and silver will pass the \$20-per-ounce mark (.999 fine Troy ounce).

Publishers will have to rewrite the coin catalogs. With bags of silver coins backed up at the nation's refineries for melting, every

Roosevelt dime, Washington quarter and Franklin half dollar in grades good, very good, fine, very fine, and extremely fine are worth more for scrap silver than the book shows. Many of the late date Mercury dimes, Barber dimes and Walking Liberty halves are going into the pot. In October, 845,696 Troy ounces of silver was recovered from coins, nine times the amount melted in September. Unless a coin is a key date it's going into the pot.

This will mean a whole new ballgame when the facts are sorted out and prices are reflected in the coins that remain.

It will be a busy year for the numismatist. The Garden State Numismatic Association will stage its Fifth Annual Convention at the Hyatt House in Cherry Hill, July 31-Aug. 3. The Greater New York Coin Convention, in conjunction with the American Israel Numismatic Association, will convene May 1-4, and the American Numismatic Association will hold its 89th

Anniversary Convention in Cincinnati, Aug. 18-24.

Maybe this is the year for YOU to join a club and get involved. Here are some of the active clubs in the area:

Morristown Coin Club — meets at the Watnong Post VFW, Route 53, Morris Plains, the first Tuesday of the month (not this week).

Wharton Coin Club — meets at the Library on Main Street the second Tuesday.

Hackettstown Coin Club — meets the last Thursday of the month at the American Legion Hall, Willow Grove Road.

Summit Coin Club — meets second Monday at the Edison Recreation Center.

N.J. Numismatic Society — meets the third Monday at the Federal Savings and Loan, Bloomfield Avenue, Caldwell.

Meeting places open at 7 in most cases. If you want more details on any of these clubs, write to me c/o the Daily Record, 800 N. Jefferson Road, Parsippany 07054.

Topical Collectors Can Think Christmas All Year

With thoughts of Christmas still fresh in our minds, it's a good time to consider starting a collection that will remind us of Christmas year-round — a topical collection of Christmas stamps.

Topical collecting, one of the most popular areas of philately, involves collecting stamps, covers and other



Santa stamps are especially popular.

Many nations issue Christmas stamps each year that will give your collection a worldwide flavor.

At first, you may want to concentrate on a particular year (say, 1979), or on those depicting a common theme, maybe religious scenes. Another possibility is to collect the stamps of just a few countries, such as the United States, Canada and Great Britain.

In the foreign market, England has an especially appealing set of Christmas stamps this year. It consists of five multi-colored stamps, each depicting a different part of the Christmas story: the Annunciation in Nazareth; Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem; the Nativity scene; the angel bringing tidings of joy to the shepherds; and the three kings bearing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The Great Britain stamps, as well as those from other nations, can be obtained from any of the local stamp stores.

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philatelic items related to a specific topic.

The subjects are unlimited, but among the favorites are Boy Scouts, cats, dogs, medicine, flowers, trees and, of course, Christmas. From this short list, you can see the possibilities depend only on one's imagination and interests.

To start a topical collection of these stamps, head to the post office and purchase (at face value) copies of this year's two Christmas stamps. The postal service began issuing special holiday stamps in 1962, and, believe it or not, that first stamp cost just 4 cents (Scott 1205).

Your collection need not be limited to American stamps.

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Postal Service Puts Windmills To Work

The soaring cost of energy has everyone scrambling for viable alternate sources. Even the U.S. Postal Service has energy on its mind these days.

The postal service on Thursday is issuing five 15-cent stamps featuring windmills, once a major source of energy.

The stamps are part of a new 20-stamp booklet (cost \$3) being issued at the Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. The university museum's display includes 20

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historic structures, among them some windmills.

The windmills chosen for the new stamps are:

- The Robertson Windmill at

Williamsburg, Va., circa 1720. A post-grist type of windmill, the Robertson mill was reconstructed at Virginia's colonial capital.

- Replica of the Old Windmill at Portsmouth, R.I. The original windmill, an octagonal smock grist mill, dated to approximately 1790. The replica stands on the site of the original, which was three stories high with 60-foot sails.

- The Cape Cod Windmill at Eastham, Mass., circa 1793. Cape

Cod's oldest Windmill, it is of a type traditionally found in the Netherlands and brought to America by the Puritans.

- The Dutch Mill at Fabyan Park Forest Preserve, near Batavia, Ill., circi 1860. It is an excellent example of a mid-19th century Dutch smock mill also brought to America by the Puritans.

- A Southwestern Windmill, circa 1890, of the type manufactured in large quantities around the turn of the century and used in other parts of the country as well. Also known as a "wind machine," it was used to pump water for irrigation, drainage and for domestic use, for grinding feed and for running light machinery.

Instructions for ordering first day covers are as follows:

For customer-affixed stamps, purchase the stamps, affix to a self-addressed envelope in any combination (use a number 10 envelope for full panes — 10 stamps), enclose in another envelope and mail to: First Day Cancellations, Postmaster, Lubbock, Tx 79408.

Only full panes (10 stamps) will be affixed by the postal service. Send an envelope containing a self-addressed envelope, enclose \$1.50 per pane to be affixed (payment by check or money order) and mail to: Windmill Stamps, Postmaster, Lubbock, Tx 79408.

All orders must be postmarked by Friday, Feb. 22.

STAMP CLUB MEETINGS

Monday, Feb. 4 — Jockey Hollow Stamp Club meets at Frelinhusen School, Hanover Avenue, Morris Township, 8 p.m., for a philatelic flea market and bourse.



U.S. coin remains the same. To figure its value, use the formula any day.

If your coins are choice specimens with few bag marks they will command a premium. If they are rare and scarce dates they are worth more. Indian Head gold coins are worth more because fewer were minted.

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British Mint Greets Year Of Monkey With A Commemorative Gold Coin

Saturday, Feb. 16, is the first day of the Chinese Year of the Monkey. The primate will reign until Feb. 4, 1981.

The Chinese lunar calendar follows a 12-year cycle much like the zodiac calendar. The Chinese Year of the Goat is about to conclude, and the monkey will reign until Feb. 4, 1981. Other animals represented in the lunar calendar are the cockerel, dog, pig, rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, snake and dragon. The Asians believe the animals represent certain character traits,

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and people born during the year of the Monkey are considered to be highly intelligent with good memories. They are thought to be good leaders, lenient, generous and lucky.

The monkey god is worshipped by Buddhists and Taoists alike, and Hong Kong has several temples dedicated to it.

The British Royal Mint has struck a gold coin of \$1,000 face value commemorating the year of the monkey. The Hong-Kong coin measures 28.4 millimeters in diameter, slightly larger than a Susan B. Anthony dollar. It is of 22-karat gold and weighs 15.98 grams.

Proof-quality coins priced at \$525, limited to 13,000 pieces, and uncirculated specimens at \$350, limited to 27,000, are being distributed.

buted through the British Royal Mint, 128 Passaic Ave., Fairfield, N.J. 07006. Send for order forms and further information.

If you were to sell your \$20 gold Double Eagle coin, what should you get for it?

U.S. gold coins are not tied to the price of gold. They usually command a premium over the spot price of gold, but if you know what your coins are worth for their gold value you will have a yardstick to measure with.

Your \$20 gold piece weighs 1.0750 ounces, Troy weight. The coin contains 10 percent copper to make it harder. This makes the coin 21.6 karats. Deduct 10 percent from the gross weight, and you will have the weight in pure 24 karat gold, or .9675. To take an arbitrary figure like \$800 per ounce of gold, multiply .9675 by 800 and you have \$774. Regardless of the condition of the coin, it is still worth \$774.

A \$10 gold coin weighs .5375. Deduct 10 percent and you get .4838, which you can multiply by the price of an ounce of gold. At \$800 an ounce, your coin has \$387 worth of 24-karat gold.

The \$5 gold piece has \$193 value by the same formula — .26875 less 10 percent (.2419) multiplied by \$800.

The 17-millimeter gold \$2.50 weighs .1343. Deduct 10 percent and you have .1209 Troy ounces of pure gold. At \$800 an ounce, it is worth \$96.72.

Gold plummeted \$140 per ounce Jan. 21. It rises and falls like a Yo-Yo, but the gold content in your

Standard Price Guide Behind The Times

The sixth edition of Standard Guide to U.S. Coin and Paper Money Valuations has a lot to recommend it. The 1980 prices of all U.S. Coins since 1793 are here, plus a well-illustrated section on U.S. paper money from 1860 to the present.

The usual information on mints and mint marks and grading will be of value to the beginner who needs to know the basics of the hobby.

A table of bullion values shows silver coin values when silver is quoted at \$8.30 to \$9.50 an ounce. Unfortunately, these are figures the commodities market hasn't seen for a long time. When silver is quoted in the \$16.50 to \$17 range, ALL silver coins are worth considerably more than their numismatic value.

The new guide shows silver Roosevelt dimes in good to extremely fine condition for as low as 70 cents each, while some coin dealers are offering \$10.25 per dollar on all silver coins. Many Mercury dimes and even a few Barber dimes in good condition are listed at 70 cents and 85 cents, prices that don't reflect their intrinsic value.

Some day in the near future the numismatic value of a silver U.S. coin will exceed its melt value. Hundreds of thousands of ounces of silver

are being recovered from the melting pots, and those that escape the smelters will command a nice premium in the future.

If you don't need the cash, you might want to sit on those silver coins to see which way the winds of change will blow.

Meanwhile, keep abreast of values via the



new price guide published by Krause Publications. It's available at your dealer for \$1.95.

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If your bag is foreign coins, you can have a field day in New York next Saturday, Sunday or Monday at the 8th Annual International Numismatic Convention. The Sheraton Centre Hotel,

7th Avenue and 52nd Street, will open its huge Albert Hall to foreign coin dealers from all over the United States, Canada and Mexico. There will be exhibits, educational meetings and two auction sales. Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday.

If you collect medals you can plan a double-header Sunday. After visiting the International Numismatic Convention, cross 7th Avenue and walk four blocks to the New York Sheraton at 56th Street, where Johnson and Jensen will conduct "Auction 5" in the Manhattan Skyline Suite at 6 p.m. Get there in time to view the 860 lots, which include medals of the world plus many topical specialties like Americana, Bicentennial, Famous Americans, Exposition Medals, So-Called Dollars and presidential medals.

Johnson and Jensen will put you on its mailing list, if you request it. Write to 8 Briar Ridge Road, Danbury, Conn., 06810.

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A lot of folks are going to be left out of the upcoming sale of Carson City Dollars by the General Services Administration. The mailing list for the U.S. Mint products cannot be used for any other offerings by any other government agency, so if you are NOT on the GSA list, you will NOT be notified. The first sale, Feb. 8 to April 8, 1980, will offer 923,287 silver dollars to the public at fixed prices. For an order form and more details, write to Carson City Silver Dollars, San Francisco, CA. 94170.

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New Zotos 7th Dimension Waving System has made perming available for your type hair. Gives it the body,

curl and style support that newest hair fashions demand. Actually an exclusive lotion that we apply before perming works to equalize, condition and protect the more fragile lightened strands so that in combination with 7th Dimension Wave, hair looks lustrous, feels natural.

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Barber Dimes Selling For \$2.75 To \$97,000

To assemble a set of 20th-century type coins of the United States, it would be prudent to acquire the rarest types first, before prices go any higher.

Your first choice should be the Barber dime, which gets its name from the sixth Chief Engraver at the U.S. Mint, Charles E. Barber, who fashioned the coin in 1892. It served the nation until 1916, so it's a carryover from the 19th century.

The Barber dime is properly designated as the Liberty dime, but it has always been called by the name of the designer. It is one of only a few such coins, notably the Morgan dollar and the St. Gaudens Double Eagle.

Charles Barber was made assistant engraver in 1869 to work with Chief Engraver William Barber, his father. When William died in 1879, Charles was appointed and served until his death in 1917.

During the coin's 24 years of service and the 64 years since its replacement, a large percentage of the 503,263,328 pieces minted have been lost, worn out or melted. In fact, many of the specimens that remain are worn thin enough to shave with.

A good specimen, with the dates and all the legends reada-

\$97,000, you can surely find one you can be proud of.

★ ★ ★

The General Services Administration Sale has had to rethink plans for its sale of Carson City silver dollars, which was to take place Feb. 8.

When silver reached a high of \$40 an ounce earlier this month, the GSA had second thoughts about selling a quantity at \$20 each. With more than \$30 in silver



bullion in each coin, it's a cinch it won't peddle them for \$20.

When plans were drawn up last November, the coins were worth about \$12.50 for the silver content. This, of course, puts the GSA on the horns of a dilemma. If it ups the price and silver drops, it won't

sell any coins. But if silver jumps even higher, it is committed to sell the coins for less than bullion value.

Plans to sell unlimited quantities per customer will have to be revamped, too, or there won't be enough to go around.

Harris Stamp Publications Helpful To Novice, Experienced Collectors

The world's largest stamp company, H. E. Harris & Co. Inc., of Boston, is also the world's biggest stamp buyer. Consequently, the firm is keenly aware of the need to provide tools and useful information to collectors.

The Harris product most familiar to collectors is probably the biennial "Postage Stamp Price" catalog. It is one of the most widely used reference books for current market prices of stamps from the United States, Canada and the United Nations. Its reliability as a realistic price guide is attested to by the fact it is also the Harris company's own retail price list.

The catalog is small enough to carry to stamp shows, but, because of the voluminous number of stamps issued, it is too thick to fit easily into one's pocket. Nonetheless, the book serves very nicely as a checklist for items needed, and a guide to their expected retail price.

Unbelievable as it seems in these inflationary times, the book sells for only \$2.25 and can be purchased at any local stamp store.

Another valuable Harris booklet is "When You Have Stamps to Sell." This contains general information for a collector — or his estate — on how to dispose of a collection in the most expeditious and profitable manner. It does not purport to state "right" or "wrong" methods of disposal, but discusses options to take in this area and suggests questions that should be asked of any potential buyer or agent.

Its contents include the pros and cons of the various dispersion methods — auctions, sale to an auction house or private collector, or sale to a stamp dealer or firm. While the booklet is weighted toward selling a collection to a company such as Harris, it does contain useful information and is worth the \$1 price tag. Orders should be

sent to H.E. Harris & Co. Inc., Dept ODH-123, Boston, MA 02117.

Harris also publishes a news-

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DONALD A. CHAFETZ

cusses cover sales that Harris stages and the history of FDC covers and postal history. To get on the newsletter mailing list, write to R&R, P.O. Box R, Boston, Mass 02117.

★ ★ ★

STAMP CLUB MEETINGS

Monday, Jan. 21 — Jockey Hollow Stamp Club, Frelinghuysen School, Hanover Avenue, Morris Township, 8 p.m.

STAMP BOURSE

Today (Jan. 20) — Stamp Bourse, Holiday Inn, 550 W. Mount Pleasant Ave., Livingston, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

COINS
HAROLD FLARTEY

ble (even if the rim is worn into the lettering) should be available for about \$2.75. You can probably get a very good specimen with the full rim for \$3.25 or a fine example for \$4. A very fine grade may be had for around \$7.50, but the next step is \$24 for an extremely fine coin.

Those who can afford the best can start at around \$250, but be very cautious: The slightest wear at this grade makes many dollars' difference.

Checkpoints for wear are the high points of cheek, hair below LIBERTY, ribbon, bow and tips of leaves.

Some of the better dates are 1913S, with an uncirculated coin bringing \$500 and up; 1896S at \$625 up; and 1896-O for \$825 up.

If you have even more money to invest, try to locate an uncirculated 1903S for \$1,100 or a 1901S or 1879-O for \$1,235. The 1894-O crowds \$2,000, and don't even bother looking for the 1894-S. There were only 24 struck, one of which sold in 1974 for \$97,000.

The 24 coins were proof specimens. The other prices mentioned as uncirculated are for MS (mint state) 60. Expect to pay as much for Gem MS65 coins.

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Another Coin Added To Hanukkah Series

The Israel Governor Coins and Medals Corp., Ltd. has produced another commemorative coin in the series honoring the Festival of Lights known as Hanukkah.

It was 2,144 years ago that the Jews revolted against the Syrians and established sovereignty in the

COINS HAROLD FLARTEY

Jewish State that lasted for two centuries.

The Bank of Israel has issued a coin featuring a 19th-century Egyptian Lamp honoring the Peace Treaty with Egypt. The vessel in which the Hanukkah lights are kindled was copied from an Egyptian Lamp by Shlomo Rotem and minted at the Federal Mint, Bern, Switzerland.

The coin, issued in bright uncirculated and proof, is of 500 fine

silver with a face value of IL 100. It weighs 20 grams and is 33 millimeters in diameter (a U.S. half dollar is 30.6 mm).

The bright-uncirculated coin sells for \$18. It is mintmarked with a Star of David and the limit is two to a customer. The proof coin is \$33, and only one is allowed to a customer.

If you would like to be placed on the subscriber's list, contact the Israel Government Coin and Medals Corp. Ltd., 350 Fifth Ave., 19th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10001.

If you are not now a subscriber, the only way you may obtain the coin is from a member who purchased two (if he will part with one) or from a coin dealer.

Orders must be made by Jan. 15, 1980.

★ ★ ★

It was just 50 years ago that the fabulous "Graf Zeppelin," which inaugurated transatlantic service, visited Lakehurst. The Ocean County Coin Club has issued a souvenir coin counterstruck on a

Philatelic Publications Are Bound To Please

Only two weeks until Christmas and you still need a gift for your stamp collecting friend.

Philatelic literature abounds that would bring a smile to any collector's face. Even better for the buyer, most of these publications can be purchased through local stamp dealers.

Serious stamp collectors keep abreast of philatelic happenings near and far by reading the many fine newspapers and magazines published for them.

A gift subscription to any of these is sure to please even the

STAMPS

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fussiest collector and remind him 52 weeks a year that you thought of him.

NEWSPAPERS

Linn's Stamp News, P.O. Box 150, Sidney, Ohio 45365, \$15/year (weekly).

Stamp Collector, P.O. Box 10, Albany, Ore. 97321, \$10.95/year (weekly).

MAGAZINES

Stamps, H.L. Lindquist Publications Inc., 153 Waverly Place, New York, N.Y. 10014, \$11.50/year, (weekly).

Scotts Monthly Journal, Scott Publishing Co., 530 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10036, \$8.50/year.

BOOKS

Books are always welcomed, and there are many philatelic selections from which to choose.

Listed here are a few of my favorites.

"The Compleat Philatelist" by Herman Herst, Jr. \$2.95 — All aspects of collecting covered in 65 brief chapters.

"The Philatelist's Companion" by Bill Gunston, \$16.95 — Deals with the financial aspects of collecting.

"Showcasing Your Stamps" by C.E. Foster \$8.00 — THE guide for creating original album pages.

"Discovering the Fun in First Day Covers" by Mellone-Newton, \$2.95.

"Identify Your Stamps" by E.J. Felix, \$1.95.

CATALOGS

Stamp catalogs provide collectors with all kinds of information on the various stamps issued around the world and the relative value of the stamps. The best of these are:

"Harris Catalog of Postage Stamp Prices for United States," \$2.25. — This is one of the best buys for a price-list catalog.

"Scotts Stamp Catalogues" — One of the most widely used, all-purpose catalogs in the United States, this is actually a set of five books which can be purchased separately or as a unit. Individual volumes range from \$9 to \$16.

"Minkus Stamp Catalogues" — Contents and prices similar to the Scotts catalogs.

★ ★ ★

STAMP SHOWS

Sunday, Dec. 16 — Third Sunday Stamp Bourse, New American Legion Post, 17-08 River Road, Fair Lawn, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 16 — Stamp Bourse, Holiday Inn, 550 W. Mount Pleasant Ave., Livingston, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.



Lincoln Cent. The die, cut by master craftsman Adam Cool of Brigantine, shows a Zeppelin with the inscriptions Lakehurst, N.J., and Ocean County Coin Club.

Interested collectors may obtain a coin by sending 50 cents and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 67, Wharton N.J. 07885. Make checks payable to Ocean County Coin Club.

The Morristown Coin Club issued a similar coin showing a German Shepherd Dog and the inscription "Man's Best Friend, Morristown N.J." Some are still available from P.O. Box 211, Ionia N.J. 07845 for 50 cents. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

★ ★ ★
What can you get for the numismatist who has everything? One possibility is the "Grand Watermelon."

In 1890 the U.S. Government issued a \$1,000 banknote showing Gen. George Gordon Meade, commander of the Union Troops at Gettysburg. The back of the Treasury Note has three zeros that resemble watermelons, so the note was called the "Watermelon Note."

Only three such notes are known to have survived the march of time, and Bowers and Ruddy,

Inc., of Los Angeles has one for sale. It is almost uncirculated, well-centered and has bright designs. The price tag is \$110,000, which is not bad for one of America's most important currency rarities.

★ ★ ★

The Hackettstown Coin Club's annual Christmas party is tomorrow at the American Legion Hall, Willow Grove Avenue. Chef Mary Grant will prepare all the goodies. Buffet opens 6:30.

Israel Honors Historic Trio

A trio of historic personalities appears on a new set of three stamps from Israel.

One stamp shows Dr. Arthur Ruppin, the "father of Zionist settlement." A second depicts Joseph Trumpeldor, a founder of the Jewish Legion in World War I, who was later killed by an Arab attack in the Upper Galilee.

Aaron Aaronsohn, who went to Palestine in 1882 and became a leader in agricultural experimentation, is pictured on the third stamp.

The stamps can be purchased through a local stamp dealer.

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Burghoff Sale Starts Jan. 28

'Radar' Cashing In On Coin Collection

As a numismatist, Gary Burghoff is a lot sharper than the bumbling serviceman he portrayed on 'M-A-S-H.'

While viewers were laughing at Radar's antics on the popular CBS-TV series, Burghoff was amassing a formidable coin collection. His, in fact, is one of two major sales this month.

Burghoff, whose talents also extend to drumming, singing and songwriting, put together a solid collection of early coppers through gold, with a liberal quantity of silver dollars, commemoratives and proof sets.

Burghoff's collection of U.S. coins will be sold at public- and mail-bid auction Monday, Jan. 28 and Tuesday, Jan. 29, by Superior Stamp and Coin Co. of Beverly Hills, Calif.

Among the offerings is a roll of 20 silver dollars, 1881-S Mint State 65-70 choice coins. It's the finest roll Superior has ever handled, and will probably sell for upwards of \$1,500.

Many more rolls of Morgan dollars are up for grabs, including an 1890 Carson City mint roll of 20 that should bring more than \$4,500.

For a look at the other items, write to Superior Stamp and Coin Co., Inc., 9301 Wilshire Blvd., Bev-

COINS
HAROLD FLARTEY

erly Hills, Ca. 90210. Ask to be placed on their mailing list, and you'll receive each of the firm's catalogs for a nominal price that doesn't even cover the cost of printing.

The other notable sale this month involves the collection of Dr. Richard P. Ariagno, a Chicago surgeon.

Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, Inc., will sell Ariagno's coins at the Numismatic Association of

Southern California Convention, Thursday, Jan. 24 and Friday, Jan. 25.

Bowers and Ruddy has put together a fascinating catalog, listing, among other treasures, 100 dates of the popular U.S. Double Eagle \$20 gold coins. The collection also offers a rare 1879 gold "Stella" and two "classic" gold Eagles of 1797 and 1799.

If paper money is your thing, you'll find an array of popular old notes in choice condition.

The sale also includes U.S. colonial pieces, ancient and world coins, gold and silver commemoratives, silver dollars and most type coins.

For a catalog or information about a package plan on future catalogs, including Part II of the Ariagno sale and Part II of the four-part Garrett Collection, write to Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, 6922 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, Ca. 90028.

★★★
Mint Director Stella B. Hackel



The sale of Gary Burghoff's coin collection will give the former 'M-A-S-H' star something to crow about.

last month announced that sales of the Bicentennial three-coin proof sets would be discontinued as of Dec. 14.

The 40-percent silver coins contain .5381 ounces of silver (Troy weight), which would melt out at more than coins' \$12 selling price.

Orders for the uncirculated three-coin Bicentennial sets had been discontinued in September, when the value of silver approached the \$9 price.

In both instances, Hackel made a wise move. By year's end silver went wild, with the price tag zooming past the \$30-per-Troy-ounce mark. People nationwide were buying the coins at up to \$24 per dollar. Franklin Mint silver collector plin .5381 ounces of silver (Troy weight), which would melt out at more than coins' \$12 selling price, and foreign proof sets went into the pile as bags backed up at the smelters.

When it is all over and dealers sort out what's left, coin collecting will be a whole new ballgame. Silver reached a high of \$40 before sliding back \$4 on Jan. 3, when gold hit \$642 an ounce.

Our "basket of silver," 12 U.S. silver coins of the 20th century in just good condition, is worth \$121.20 when silver brings \$24 per one-dollar face.



the tales and restore his reputation, Arnold demanded and finally obtained a military court martial. He was charged with misusing public property and authority.

His trial convened Dec. 23, 1779, at Arnold's Tavern in Morristown. The general was found guilty and received a letter of rebuke from Washington.

Arnold then sought and received appointment as military commander at West Point. While in this latter position, he betrayed his country, going to work for the British.

But even amid this gloom there were some positive events that helped fortify the troops in Morristown. There was the January raid on the "lobsterbacks" on Long Island; the defeat in June of the British at Springfield; and the May arrival of Lafayette with the news that the French were sending support troops.

Simultaneously, the court martial of Benedict Arnold sent shock waves through the moral fiber of every soldier and patriot.

Arnold had been a popular general, considered by many one of the boldest and ablest of the American officers. But while military commander of Philadelphia the preceding year, his extravagant lifestyle was the subject of much talk and criticism. To stem

each cachet cover cost 75 cents or four for \$3, plus a No. 10 self-addressed, stamped envelope. Orders should be sent to: Jockey Hollow Stamp Club, P.O. Box 2411-R, Morristown, N.J. 07960.

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The 1980 Black Heritage stamp will be issued Friday.

Black Heritage Series

Benjamin Banneker Honored

The U.S. Postal Service is continuing its Black Heritage series this year with a stamp honoring the astronomer and mathematician Benjamin Banneker.

The date of issue is Friday and the first day ceremony will take place at Annapolis, Md.

Banneker (1731-1806) was born free in Baltimore County, Md. At the age of 22 he constructed a wooden striking clock, and for a number of years computed astronomical data for almanacs.

His greatest fame came when he served as scientific assistant to Major Andrew Ellicott, who was appointed by President George Washington to lay out the 10-mile

square for the federal capital in the District of Columbia in 1791.

The Black Heritage Series, begun in 1978 by the USPS, is intend-

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DONALD A. CHAFETZ

ed to recognize the contributions of black Americans to the growth and development of the United States.

The first two stamps in the series honored Harriet Tubman (Scott 1744) and Dr. Martin Luther King

Jr. (Scott 1771). All three stamps were designed by Jerry Pinkney and follow a similar design approach: a large, frontal portrait of the person and a smaller design illustrating the major contribution to our way of life.

Information for ordering first day covers are as follows:

For customer-affixed stamps, purchase the new stamp, affix to a self-addressed envelope, enclose in another envelope and mail to: First Day Cancellations, Postmaster, Annapolis, MD 21401.

For postal service-affixed stamp, send a self-addressed envelope, 15 cents per stamp to be affixed (payment by personal check or money order), to: Banneker Stamp, Postmaster, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Orders must be postmarked by March 1.

★ ★ ★

In commemoration of George Washington's birthday and his last encampment in Morristown during the winter of 1779-1780, the Ford Mansion will sponsor an open house Friday, Feb. 22. As part of the celebration the Morristown post office will have a completely stocked Philatelic Postique in the museum. On hand and dressed in a colonial postmaster's outfit will be Morristown Postmaster J. Robert Tracey.

In honor of this event, the Jockey Hollow Stamp Club has designed a special cachet cover. The cachet features a collage of Washington, his signature, Washington's Headquarters, and the Fredrich G.R. Roth equestrian statue. Three blue Washington 5-cent stamps will be cancelled with a special George Washington Headquarters postmark.

The covers may be purchased at the Philatelic Postique or by mail from the club. Send 75 cents per cover a No. 10 self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Jockey Hollow Stamp Club, P.O. Box 2411-R, Morristown, NJ. 07960.

The Postique hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in the museum lobby of Washington's Headquarters in Morristown.

Lincoln Cents Command Big Bucks

When our nation celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln in 1909, many medals were issued to mark the occasion. The most lasting tribute was the 1-cent coin designed by sculptor Victor David Brenner.

The ubiquitous bronze cent has been with us for 71 years, but it could now be an endangered species. The price of a pound of copper has about reached the point where it will soon be economically impossible to manufacture the little coin for its face value.

After 50 years, the reverse of the coin was changed to show the Lincoln Memorial in Wash-

ington D.C., a design fashioned by Chief Mint Engraver Frank Gasparro. The 21 billion coins showing the wheat ears reverse have all but disappeared from circulation since the reverse die was changed in 1959.

If a 1931S Lincoln shows up in your pocket change it's your lucky day. A good specimen brings \$25 to \$90 and there are many more dates and mint marks that would make searching interesting and profitable.

After 1958, when the Memorial Reverse was introduced, mintages were in the multi-millions, thus few specimens since then command a premium. In 1960 large and small date coins appeared, but today only the Philadelphia coin sells for \$2.50 in uncirculated condition. In 1970 the San Francisco mint produced a large and small date coin and the small date goes for \$2 in uncirculated.

King of the unusual Lincolns is the 1955 double-die cent produced at Philadelphia in a hubbing operation while fabricating a working die. An unknown quantity escaped red-faced inspectors, and the little bronze gems were snapped up by eagle-eyed collectors. The "In God We Trust" makes you think you have double vision, and the date is strong enough to see with the naked eye. Collectors were selling them to each other for 50 cents when they were discovered; today they list for \$225 in very fine to \$1450 for a top quality uncirculated specimen.

1909 VDB Lincoln Cent



For your 20th-century type set you will need a 1909-1958 specimen with the wheat reverse, a zinc-coated steel war-time issue of 1943 available for 30 cents in extremely fine and a 1959 to date that you can take from your pocket change.

COINS

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FLARTEY

ington D.C., a design fashioned by Chief Mint Engraver Frank Gasparro. The 21 billion coins showing the wheat ears reverse have all but disappeared from circulation since the reverse die was changed in 1959.

To find out which of the early Lincolns are available, get a coin catalog, a Red Book, Black Book or Coin Prices magazine and run your finger down the column G-4. The first one that will open your eyes is the 1909S at \$28. Follow that one through the various grades, and you'll see \$100 for a MS-60 Uncirculated coin. The 1909S with the designer's initials, VDB, on the reverse starts at \$155 and goes as high as \$700 for a choice coin. The 1914D with a mintage of about 1.2 million starts at \$60 and goes to \$1150. In 1922 more

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